

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(June 20, 2008)

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medicine took the following action:

[Akella Chendrasekhar, M.D.](#), a 46 year-old surgeon who formerly practiced in Des Moines, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. On August 17, 2006, the Board charged Dr. Chendrasekhar with engaging in a pattern of professional incompetency and practice harmful or detrimental to the public in the practice of medicine, particularly bariatric surgery. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Dr. Chendrasekhar is prohibited from performing gastric bypass surgery under his Iowa medical license until he receives Board approval, he must complete a comprehensive competency evaluation and he was placed on probation with a practice monitor for a period of five years. He was also issued a public reprimand and ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine.

[Padmavathi V. Pagadala, M.D.](#), a 41 year-old Iowa-licensed obstetrician and gynecologist from Moline, Illinois, had formal disciplinary charges dismissed by the Iowa Board. On December 12, 2007, the Board filed charges against Dr. Pagadala alleging that she failed to complete the necessary continuing medical education (CME) hours required for Iowa licensure and that she knowingly submitted a false report which indicated that she had completed the required CME. The Board subsequently determined that Dr. Pagadala did not knowingly submit a false report of CME and she did complete the required CME. Based on the foregoing, on May 19, 2008, the State of Iowa filed a Motion to Dismiss the Statement of Charges and on June 12, 2008, the Board issued an Order dismissing the charges in this matter.

[Jerry G. Schaaf, M.D.](#), a 66 year-old family practice physician from Shenandoah, Iowa, had a disciplinary decision issued by the Board. On April 27, 2006, the Board charged Dr. Schaaf with engaging in inappropriate sexual misconduct in the practice of medicine. On November 28-29, 2007, the case came for hearing before a panel of the Board. On January 28, 2008, the panel issued Proposed Decision of the Panel. Dr. Schaaf appealed the decision to the full Board and a hearing was held before the full Board on May 14, 2008. On June 12, 2008, the full Board issued a Final Order adopting the Proposed Decision of the Panel in its entirety. The Board concluded that Dr. Schaaf sexually abused a fourteen year-old patient in 1973. The Board ordered Dr. Schaaf to pay a \$10,000 fine and placed him on probation subject to Board monitoring for a period of five years. The Board also ordered Dr. Schaaf to have a Board-approved chaperone present in the room at all times when he treats children.

[Frederick W. Strickland, D.O.](#), a 63 year-old family practice physician from Des Moines, Iowa, had a disciplinary decision issued by the Board. On October 12, 2006, the Board charged Dr. Strickland with failing to complete a comprehensive competency evaluation in violation of a Board Order. On January 7, 2008, the case came for hearing before a panel of the Board. On January 28, 2008, the panel issued Proposed Decision of the Panel. Dr. Strickland appealed the decision to the full Board and a hearing was held before the full Board on May 14, 2008. On June 12, 2008, the full Board issued a Final Order adopting the Proposed Decision of the Panel in its entirety. The Board concluded that Dr. Strickland failed to comply with a Board Order to complete a comprehensive competency evaluation. The Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Strickland's Iowa medical license until he successfully completes a Board-approved comprehensive clinical competency examination and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 fine.

Roger K. Weste, M.D., a 53 year-old family practice physician from De Witt, Iowa, had formal disciplinary charges dismissed by the Board. On January 18, 2005, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Tomah, Wisconsin, summarily suspended Dr. Weste after it determined that he failed to meet generally accepted standards of clinical practice, raising concerns for the safety of patients. On September 29, 2005, Dr. Weste and the VA entered into a Settlement and Compromise Agreement to resolve the summary suspension. On January 17, 2008, the Board charged Dr. Weste with being disciplined by another licensing authority in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine in Iowa. On March 26, 2008, the case came for hearing before a panel of the Board. On April 28, 2008, the Board issued a Proposed Decision of the Panel. The Panel concluded that the preponderance of the evidence at hearing failed to establish that Respondent violated Iowa law and the Board dismissed the charges in this matter. Neither party appealed the panel's decision and it became final on May 29, 2008.